

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01974 051321Z

44

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PRS-01 L-01 PM-03 DODE-00 ARAE-00 /036 W

----- 024536

P R 022035Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3595

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR PARA'S 1 AND 2)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: ABC REASONER REPORT ON GULF & WESTERN

1. LAWRENCE LEVINDWN, VICE PRESIDENT G&W, TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING TO INFORM HIM OF DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO SUBJECT PROGRAM SCHEDULED TO BE SHOW IN U.S. ON TV TOMORROW. ACCORDING TO LEVINSON, ABC PUT OUT PRESS RELEASE APRIL 29 ADVERTISING REASONER PROGRAM IN WHICH HISPANIOLA IS DESCRIBED AS BEING DIVIDED IN THREE PARTS: HAITI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND G&W. PRESS RELEASE REPORTEDLY ALSO STATED THAT PROGRAM WOULD FEATURE INTERVIEW WITH DOMINICAN FEMALE EMPLOYEE WHO HAD BEEN DISCHARGED BY G&W FOR HER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND WITH DOMINICAN SMALL LANDHOLDER WHO ALLEGEDLY HAD BEEN INTIMIDATED TO SELL HIS LAND TO G&W AFTER HIS FOREMAN HAD BEEN MURDERED.

2. LEVINSON SAID THAT G&W IMMEDIATELY HAD CHARGES CHECKED AND FOUND THEM TO BE UNTRUE. FEMALE EMPLOYEE HAD VOLUNTARILY LEFT EMPLOYMENT IN G&W CONSOLIDATED CIGAR OPERATION DUE TO ALLERGY TO TOBACCO AND WAS SHORTLY THEREAFTER HIRED BY ANOTHER U.S. COMPANY IN G&W OPERATED FREE ZONE. RE SMALL
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LANDHOLDER, LEVINSON STATED THAT G&W HAD NEVER ATTEMPTED

TO PURCHASE HIS LAND AND THAT LANDOWNER STILL POSSESSES HIS LAND# OUTRAGED BY THIS APPARENT BIASED REPORTING, A G&W SENIOR OFFICIAL, AFTER TELEPHONING ENC PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF NEWS, SENT HIM A STIFF LETTER OF PROTEST (LEVINSON READ IT TO AMBASSADOR OVER PHONE) DECRYING UNFAIR PRESS RELEASES BORDERING ON LIBEL, EMPHASIZING G&W DESIRE THAT NO FACTS BE SUPPRESSED BUT ON CONTRARY ALL FACTS BE GIVEN, ENDING ON NOTE OF SADNESS THAT MATTER WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO ITS WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK ATTORNEYS.

3. AS A CONSEQUENCE, ABC HAS ISSUED NEW PRESS RELEASE SUPERSEDING EARLIER ONE WHICH LEVINSON ALSO READ TO AMBASSADOR. THIS SECOND RELEASE Milder in tone and adds that program will include interviews with CARLOS MORALES, SENIOR DOMINICAN OFFICIAL OF G&W AMERICAS, WALTER LANGFORD, U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF G&W FOUNDATION AND WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR. LEVINSON COMMENTED THAT WHILE SECOND PRESS RELEASE AN IMPROVEMENT, G&W NOT YET ENTIRELY SATISFIED AND IS SEEKING PREVIEW PROGRAM OR READ TRANSCRIPT PRIOR TO AIRING, ALTHOUGH NOT SANGUINE ABOUT RESPONSE.

4. DEPT MIGHT WISH TO OBTAIN BOTH ABC PRESS RELEASES. WOULD APPRECIATE TELEPHONIC RUN DOWN OF PROGRAM SOME TIME SUNDAY MAY 4.
HIXWITCH

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